



THE CLARENDON Enterprise

07.17.2025

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THE CLARENDON NEWS & THE DONLEY COUNTY LEADER

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THIS WEEK

- 2 Bellsnyder says it's okay to criticize your government.
- 4 The Mulkey Theatre and local kids will be seen in an upcoming music video.
- 5 Clarendon Masons install new officers.
- 8 Federal cuts may impact Texas' kids mental health.

All this and much more as The Enterprise reports in this week's amazing edition!

Clarendon sets July sales tax record

The City of Clarendon set another monthly record for sales tax revenue when Texas Acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock distributed July allocations last week.

Clarendon brought in \$45,167.47 for the month, which was 10.27 percent higher than the same period one year ago. The allocation broke the previous local July record of \$40,989 set in 2021. Clarendon's calendar year-to-date revenue is now \$317,333.73, an increase of 8.22 percent compared to this time last year.

The city has set monthly records for sales tax revenue in five of the first seven months for 2025. Annual sales tax revenues have grown year over year since 2018.

Howardwick was up 10.42 percent this month with an allocation of \$1,186.02 and is up 26.99 percent for the year-to-date at \$10,793.64.

Hedley dipped 32.15 percent with an allocation of \$804.65, but the city's year-to-date figure remains up 14.05 percent at \$9,243.37.

Statewide, Hancock sent \$1.2 billion in local sales tax allocations for July, 4.5 percent more than in July 2024.

These allocations are based on sales made in May by businesses that report tax monthly.

Hedley host ball camp July 28-29

Hedley ISD is excited to announce its upcoming summer basketball camp for all incoming 1st through 8th grade students. The camp will take place on July 28 and 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each day in the Hedley school gym.

The cost of the camp is \$25 per participant, which includes a camp t-shirt. Students will have the opportunity to work on basketball fundamentals, improve their skills, and have fun in a supportive and engaging environment led by Coach Allen Grant and Coach Jonathan Hood.

In an effort to make the camp accessible to all students, transportation to and from the school is being arranged for families who are unable to bring their children. Additionally, a scholarship fund is available for students who wish to attend but may need financial assistance. Parents are encouraged to reach out directly to Coach Grant if they would like to request support.

"We want every student who's interested to have the opportunity to participate," said Coach Grant. "This camp is a great way for kids to stay active, build confidence, and connect with their teammates and school community."

The registration link can be found at www.hedleyisd.net, and families are encouraged to sign up early.

H'wick hosting seventh Hoedown Saturday

The seventh annual Howardwick Hoedown will be held Saturday, July 19, in McMorries Memorial Park with fun for the entire family.

Food will be served starting at 11 a.m. and continue until it runs out, and dancing and music will continue throughout the day. Lunch will be \$10 per person – pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, a drink, and a cupcake.

A Challenger 200EX will be raffled off at 4 p.m. Tickets for that are already sold out, according to Howardwick City Secretary Sandy Lynn Childress. A live on-site raffle, however, will offer many chances to win and will also be going on all day for those present.

"I'm going to have to be drawing winners about 11 times per hour to give all these away," Childress said.

Tickets for the live raffle are \$1 each or 25 chances for \$20.

A Hoedown Showdown Poker Run with a cash payout will be held at 9 a.m. for golf carts, ATVs, and UTVs and the entire route will be in the City of Howardwick.

The fourth annual putting contest will also have a cash payout, and sign-ups will continue until 1 p.m.

A slip-n-slide and bounce house will be available for kids, and vendor booths will feature ice cream, cotton candy, artisan wares, and more.

Those attending the Hoedown should plan to bring their own seating and their own umbrellas or other shading if they desire.

Hoedown activities will wind down at 4 p.m.



ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Remembering Tommy Hill

The Clarendon City Council issued a proclamation honoring the life of the late Alderman Tommy Hill during its meeting last week. Shown here are Laverne Pinion, Debra Hill, Courtney D'Costa, Cydney D'Costa, Brenda Hill, Mayor Jacob Fangman, Lauren Graves, and Danny Hill.

City council considers candidates for vacancy

The Clarendon City Council heard from eight citizens interested in filling the seat of the late Tommy Hill during their regular meeting last Thursday, July 10.

Last week, City Administrator Brian Barboza said 11 people had expressed an interest in the position. Those were Bob Weiss, Tonya Lindsey, Ashleigh Sherel, Christopher Topliff, Pharabie Shadle, former alderman Eulaine McIntosh, Cydney D'Costa, Ashlee Wortham, Jimmie Adams, Ralph Graves, and Christopher Woodcock.

Barboza said he thought some of those may have decided they were not interested in the position, but eight did attend and were invited to address the council. Those were

Weiss, McIntosh, Graves, Lindsey, Topliff, Adams, Shadle, and D'Costa.

In public comments at the opening of the meeting, Howardwick Mayor Johnny Floyd urged the council to think about Hill when considering his replacement to appoint someone with vision and ambition for the city. Sara SoRelle also addressed the council and spoke in favor of former alderman McIntosh.

Aldermen wanted to take their time to review the qualifications and letters of those interested. The council was scheduled to meet in closed session to appoint someone to the Hill's seat as the Enterprise was going to press Tuesday evening,

July 15.

See [Facebook.com/TheEnterprise](https://facebook.com/TheEnterprise) and ClarendonLive.com for updates on action taken Tuesday.

In other city business last week, the council accepted the annual report of Clarendon Housing Authority Executive Director Tammy Christopher and approved the city's quarterly investment report.

A proposal for a new vending contract for the Clarendon Aquatic Center was turned down with aldermen voting instead to do away with the vending machines and sell concessions directly.

The council also discussed the five dollar entrance fee for the aquatic center for people who are

not swimming. The fee has been a source of a few complaints, but some aldermen felt it was still a revenue stream for the aquatic center and that those not swimming are still enjoying chair and using other facilities at the center. Aldermen Ashlee Estlack, Tom Thompson, and Chelsi Shadle voted to leave the charge unchanged with Alderman Brittney Wolfe voting no.

The council was scheduled to conduct the annual evaluation of City Secretary Machiel Covey, but with three of four current aldermen having been in office for only two months, the council voted to delegate Covey's evaluation to the city administrator. The council will then review Covey's evaluation.

CCISD names interim

Board may select finalist next week

Clarendon CISD Trustees approved hiring Rick Teran as interim school superintendent during their regular meeting last Monday, July 7, and could name their pick for the next fulltime superintendent as early as next week.

Teran has 42 years of experience in education and served as superintendent in Childress for eight years before retiring five years ago.

He and his wife of 31 years currently live in Bushland, and the couple has three kids and five grandchildren with one on the way.



Teran

The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) is helping CCISD search for a new superintendent after Jarod Bellar retired from the position this month and took a new job in Kansas. TASB headhunter Rich Howard recruited Teron to fill in temporarily after the school's first interim pick, Bryan Davis, was unable to take the position due to contractual obligations, Teran said.

Trustees narrowed their pool of superintendent applicants to three during last week's meeting and began interviews with those finalists this week in called meetings on Monday and Tuesday. They will continue interviews next week and could announce a finalist either July 22 or 23, Teran said.

In keeping with the way most Texas school districts operate, Clarendon CISD is not releasing the names of the three finalists. Once they name a lone finalist, there will be a 21-day waiting period before that person can be officially hired by the district.

Teran said a new superintendent could be on the job in Clarendon as early as September 1.

In other school business last week, trustees voted 6-1 to Opt-Out of the Homeschool participation in all UIL activities. Those voting in favor were Taylor Shelton, Jeff Robertson, Donny Howard, Robin Ellis, Wayne Hardin, and Chrisi Tucek, and Mike Word opposed the motion. The vote prohibits homeschoolers living within the district from participating in UIL academics and athletics for CCISD.

The board also met in closed session for about 30 minutes before returning to open session to acknowledge the resignation of Lisa Grahn. The board also offered one-year contracts to Terri Luna, Aimee Lyles, Carrie Anne Torres, April Carroll, Izaiah Kelley, Laura Martinez, Aaron Smith, and Trevor Leeper.

Also during the school board's regular June meeting, the trustees met in closed session for about 45 minutes before returning to open session and acknowledging the resignations of Alix Snure and Kalen Grahn and offering one-year contracts of employment to Roy Davis and Stan Caffey.



ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Sidewalk progress

Downtown revitalization work focused on the west side of the 200 block of Kearney Street this week in front of Ramlin' Ranch Boutique and the former Greene Dry Goods building. Workers were expected to concrete there this week. The city council was scheduled to review bids for the next round of revitalization in the 300 block during a called session Tuesday night.



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¿Qué Pasa?

Community Calendar

July 18 & 19
Mulkey Theatre • Superman • 7:30 p.m.

July 19
Howardwick Hoedown. 11 a.m. at McMorries Memorial Park featuring Food, craft and Vendor Booths, Music, Raffles, Cornhole and more!
• ClarendonTx.com for info.

July 20
Mulkey Theatre • Superman • 2:00 p.m.

July 21, 22, & 23
Community Fellowship Church • Vacation Bible School • 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

July 25 & 26
Mulkey Theatre • Superman • 7:30 p.m.

July 27
Mulkey Theatre • Superman • 2:00 p.m.

July 27 - 30
Calvary Baptist Church • Vacation Bible School • 6:00 p.m. - 8:80 p.m.

August 2 & 3
Jack & Jill Scramble • Clarendon Country Club • Call 806-874-2166

August 7
Clarendon CISD • Returning Students Registration • 2:00 p.m - 5:00 p.m.

August 8
Clarendon CISD • New Students Registration • 9:00 a.m.

August 9
Bronco Booster Tournament
Clarendon Country Club • Call 806-874-2166

August 11
Meet the Teachers • Clarendon CISD • 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

August 11
Back to School Bash • Clarendon Elementary • 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

August 11
Meet the Teachers • Hedley ISD • 5:00 p.m

August 11
Meet the Owls • Hedley ISD • 6:00 p.m

August 12
Hedley ISD • First Day of School

August 13
Clarendon CISD • First Day of School

August 16
Donley County Senior Citizens Center 50th Anniversary Celebration • 4th & Gorst Streets • See ClarendonTX.com

August 23
Night Scramble • Clarendon Country Club • 806-874-2166

★

Menus

July 21 - 25

Donley County Senior Citizens
Mon: Cheeseburgers, potato wedges, melon, sugar cookie, iced tea/2% milk.
Tues: Pork chops, black-eyed peas, turnip greens, cornbread, sliced peaches, iced tea/2% milk.
Wed: Mushroom steak, baked potatoes, green beans, whole wheat roll, fruit cup, iced tea/2% milk.
Thurs: Pot roast, gravy, potatoes, carrots, green beans, whole wheat roll, peach cobbler, iced tea/2% milk.
Fri: Oven fried chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, whole wheat roll, fruit crisp, iced tea/2% milk.

Hedley Senior Citizens
Mon: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, cornbread, fruit cobbler, iced tea/2% milk.
Tues: Beef soft tacos, cheese, refried beans, Spanish rice, mixed green salad, Mexican brownies, iced tea/2% milk.
Wed: Chicken fried steak w/ country gravy, homemade mashed potatoes, California mixed vegetable, fruit, whole wheat roll, oatmeal cookie, iced tea/2% milk.
Thurs: Mushroom steak, brown gravy, potato, green beans, whole wheat roll, fruit cup, iced tea/2% milk.
Fri: Bacon cheeseburger on whole wheat bun, onion rings, fruit, chef's choice dessert, iced tea/2% milk



In the spotlight
The Mulkey Theatre and three local kids will have a roll in an upcoming music video with footage shot last Saturday. Garre LaGrone is putting the video together for his bluegrass group, The Grass Daddies, and their new song “Old Yeller.” The video will include local kids Monroe Newhouse, Kylee Glover, and J.T. Shelton going to see the movie “Old Yeller” in the 1950s. Shown here are LaGrone, Makaylee Frank, Newhouse, Shelton (beside Newhouse), and Glover.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Texas lawmaker proposes beefing up worker program to ease farm labor shortages

By Berenice Garcia, The Texas Tribune

US Rep. Monica De La Cruz filed legislation Monday that would revamp a temporary worker program to help ease farm labor shortages largely provoked by the Trump administration’s ramped-up immigration raids targeting undocumented workers.

De La Cruz, a Republican from Edinburg, introduced the Bracero Program 2.0 Act on Monday, a bill that makes changes to a temporary visa program for agriculture workers, known as H-2A visas.

The proposal would raise wages for program participants, streamline the application process for employers, and launch a regional pilot program that would allow workers to change jobs within a state without having to reapply for a visa.

“This will provide solutions desperately needed for hard-working immigrants. With workforce shortages challenging our communities, the Bracero Program 2.0 will bring stability and certainty for South Texas,” De La Cruz said in a statement.

Farmworkers have been among those targeted by immigration enforcement officials since the Trump administration intensified deportation efforts.

Following raids in California last month, farmers reported that between 30 percent to 60 percent of their workers stopped showing up to work amid fears they could be arrested next.

Those fears are also pertinent in Hidalgo County – the majority of which lies in De La Cruz’s district – where about 80 percent of workers are undocumented, according to a report by the National Center for Farmworker Health. Only two workers surveyed in the report had an H-2A visa.

Amid rising concerns within the agricultural industry, President Donald Trump expressed support for reforming the H-2A program and announced a plan to streamline the issuance of temporary worker visas.

De La Cruz’s bill would create an online portal for agriculture employers to post job openings or file petitions to bring in temporary workers; extend H-2A visa worker

contracts from 10 months to a year; and expand the program to include greenhouses and indoor farms as qualified employers.

It would also launch a six-year pilot program allowing workers to freely move between jobs within the same state while their visa lasts.

A worker under this program would be known as a portable H-2A worker.

If their job ends, they would have 60 days to find another one with a registered agriculture employer or be required to leave the country.

The law would require that no more than 10,000 portable H-2A visas are active at any given time. However, the US Secretary of Homeland Security could further limit the number of visas if there aren’t enough registered agriculture employers or job openings.

All H-2A workers would have to be paid a wage that matches the minimum wage of the state they’re employed in, plus \$2 per hour.

Laramie Adams, government affairs director for the Texas Farm Bureau, said he supported a more streamlined application, saying the current process of matching up with H-2A workers is cumbersome.

Employers have to submit paper applications and supporting documents.

If a state or federal agency requires more information from an employer, the agencies often mail their requests rather than sending an email, leading to a lengthy back-and-forth, according to a report by the US Government Accountability Office.

And employers who need workers at different parts of a season must go through the entire process again.

“The main thing that we advocate for is a strong, legal agriculture workforce, and it’s been hard to navigate the current H-2A process to ensure that we have a reliable workforce,” Adams said. “At the same time, we have a lot more Texans who are using the program because it’s their only avenue to be able to get seasonal agricultural workers.”

The bill is named after a temporary labor program between the US and Mexico that ran from 1942 until 1964. The Bracero program – meaning “arm man” or manual laborer in

Spanish – was meant to provide a legal way to temporarily hire Mexican migrant farmworkers along the southern border.

“For decades, the Bracero Program created new opportunities for millions and provided critical support for Texas agriculture,” De La Cruz said in a statement.

The program ended because of tensions with the farm labor unions, which accused agriculture employers of using bracero workers as cheap labor that put US workers at a disadvantage, according to Mayra Avila, a lecturer at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

She said labor shortages in the agriculture sector have existed for years, but recent immigration arrests targeting immigrant farmworkers have magnified the need for labor.

But Avila questioned whether changes like those proposed in De La Cruz’s bill would address the shortages, noting that the undocumented workers being arrested are not eligible for H-2A visas.

“You have to have a clean record,” Avila said.

Lawmakers have repeatedly tried to reform the H-2A program over the years, including one attempt in 2021 that would have created a path to legal status for undocumented farmworkers. De La Cruz’s bill contains no such provision.

Though it’s unclear whether De La Cruz’s bill will garner strong support, the legislation signals a desire among Republicans to establish a framework to allow more migrant farmworkers to work in the country legally.

“The reality is that you’re getting rid of a lot of farmworker laborers, and farm work is very hard work,” Avila said.

She said the US relies too heavily on farmworkers and that it would be difficult to fill those jobs with US citizens.

“As a US citizen, you would rather get a job at McDonald’s with air conditioning, or a Walmart with air conditioning, than go work in the fields where, in Texas, it’s 90 degrees,” she said. “Why would you do this to yourself? It’s back-breaking.”

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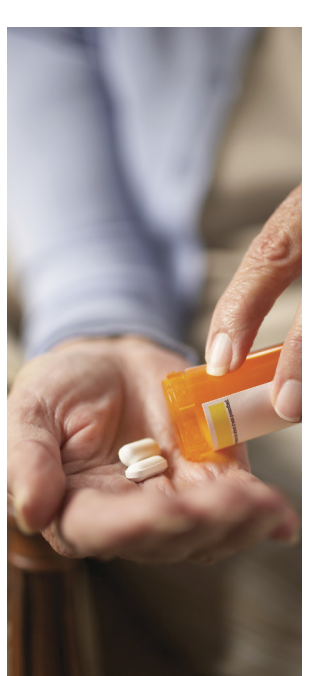
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New officers

Clarendon Lodge #700 installed officers for the 2025-2025 masonic year Monday night during a stated meeting. Shown here are Senior Deacon John Tom Morrow, Senior Warden Jim Owens, Worshipful Master Corey Blais, Junior Warden and District Deputy Grand Master Chris Wilson, Tiler Jarrod McDaniel, Secretary Russell Estlack, and Treasurer Roger Estlack.

ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Production outlook optimistic for Texas cotton amid low prices

Production expectations are good for Texas cotton, but low prices may stymie positive outcomes for growers.

John Robinson, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economist in the Texas A&M Department of Agricultural Economics, said growing conditions are much better than in recent years due to drought, but prices are low and could decline further.

In 2022, Texas cotton growers experienced widespread crop losses, Robinson said. Two out of three acres planted with cotton were abandoned due to unrelenting drought.

Subsequent years produced below-average results for growers, he said. In 2023 and 2024, winter and springtime rains provided decent planting conditions before arid weather set in. High temperatures and little to no rain led to lower yields in dryland and irrigated fields, while late-season rains delayed harvests in some areas and hurt lint quality.

“Most cotton growers across Texas have taken a punch in the gut the last few years and are looking for that season to make up for it,” he said. “Conditions around the state should provide that kind of opti-

mism, but unfortunately, the other important profit factor – prices – are pretty weak.”

A June 30 report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated national cotton acreage would be 10.1 million acres, down 10 percent compared to last year. Cotton acres in Texas, the nation’s leading producer, were expected to be down over 4 percent – 5.7 million acres compared to 5.95 million acres in 2024.

Robinson said low prices, coupled with wet weather and delayed plantings in the Mississippi Delta region, likely factored into the decline. The lower acre estimates did not result in a price boost at market.

Before the report was released, there were some expectations that cotton plantings could be closer to 9 million acres. Cotton prices have taken a long slide from 80-85 cents per pound since March 2024 and settled below 70 cents per pound since May. December futures were trading at 67.8 cents per pound on July 7.

Robinson said the acreage estimate, coupled with higher-than-expected ending stockpiles of cotton and speculative commodity selling, continue to factor into a weaker market.

“Nothing bullish about the cotton market has changed the speculative short position of those traders who expect the price to go lower still,” he said. “People were expecting the planted acres to drop further than they did, which would have made the ending stocks outcome a lot tighter, which is fundamentally supportive of better prices. But the reverse happened.”

Robinson said growers are hoping above-average yields can compensate for lower prices.

Crop productivity will be highly weather-dependent from now until harvesting begins. Some cotton acres have received too much moisture in recent weeks and need sun and warmer temperatures to accumulate heat units and progress. Texas dryland cotton acres and most irrigated acres in the northern half of the state will need timely rains in July and August.

Harvests in South Texas typically begin in August, with the Texas High Plains maturing into November and harvests lasting into January.

“It’s good that we have moisture, but there is a lot of uncertainty,” he said. “The potential for good production is there; now we just need some conditions to align.”

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1. Resorts
5. One point south of southwest
9. Musical performances
11. Matched
13. Four-footed animal part
15. Express severe disapproval of
16. Type of leaf
17. Preparatory
19. Walk heavily
21. Succulent plants
22. Rectangle of grass
23. Lump in yarn
25. Too
26. Foot (Latin)
27. Afflicts
29. Smoothed
31. Mind (Greek)
33. Tampa ballclub
34. Semitic language
36. Sheltered sides
38. Ocean
39. Electronic point of sale
41. Thrust a knife into
43. 12th month (abbr.)
44. Ringworm
46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.)
48. Fighting back
52. Cease to exist
53. Insects in adult stage
54. Freestanding sculpture
56. Caps
57. Repents
58. Brown and Wallace are two
59. Moved quickly

CLUES ACROSS

1. Resorts
5. One point south of southwest
9. Musical performances
11. Matched
13. Four-footed animal part
15. Express severe disapproval of
16. Type of leaf
17. Preparatory
19. Walk heavily
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48. Fighting back
52. Cease to exist
53. Insects in adult stage
54. Freestanding sculpture
56. Caps
57. Repents
58. Brown and Wallace are two
59. Moved quickly

CLUES DOWN

1. Goes bad
2. Yard structure
3. They ____
4. Marine invertebrate
5. European river
6. Office supplies firm
7. Physically abused
8. Service stations in Australia
9. Kills
10. Liquid body substances
11. Particular to a given individual
12. Brave or noble act
14. Sicilian city
15. Conqueror
18. Elected officials
20. Type of “pig”
24. Drop of viscous substance
26. Monetary unit of Spain
28. Guarantees
30. Coloring materials
32. Reddish browns
34. Square measure
35. Will not
37. Canned fish
38. Appeared
40. Six (Spanish)
42. Took off
43. Negligible amount
45. Posts in a Greek temple
47. Witnesses
49. Phil ___, former CIA
50. Places to park
51. Guns
55. Dance to pop music



CLARENDON
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SUN. EVENING: 6 P.M. • KID'S ACTIVITIES: WED. 6 P.M.
YOUTH STUDY: WED. 7 P.M.
COLLEGE MINISTRY: WED. 9 P.M.
CLARENDON METHODIST CHURCH
420 S. JEFFERSON • 874-3667 • BRO. RYAN QUIST
SUN. SCHOOL: 9:45 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M.
SUN. YOUTH: 6:00 P.M. • WED. BIBLE STUDY 6:30 P.M.
JESUS NAME APOSTOLIC CHURCH
720 E. MONTGOMERY • REV. 874-2078
REV. CALVIN BURROW
SUN. SERVICES: 3 P.M. • WED.: 7 P.M.
BODY OF CHRIST MINISTRIES:
416 S. KEARNEY • 874-2007
SUN. BREAKFAST 9:30 A.M. • SUN. PRAISE & WORSHIP 10 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:30 A.M. • WED.: 5 P.M.
KINGDOM HALL JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
12120 US 287 (JUST WEST OF CLARENDON) • 874-5020
PUBLIC MEETING & WATCHTOWER STUDY: SUN. 10 A.M.
BIBLE STUDY, CONGREGATIONAL THEOCRATIC MINISTRY
SCHOOL & SERVICE MEETING • TUES.: 7 P.M.
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
301 S. PARKS ST. • 874-2511 • REV. JIM AVERI
SECOND SUNDAY SERVICE: 11 A.M.
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
MONTGOMERY & MCCLELLAND
FR. BALA POLLISSETTI
SUN. MASS 11 A.M.
ST. STEPHENS BAPTIST CHURCH
300 N. JEFFERSON ST. • PASTOR: ROY WILLIAMS
SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11:15 A.M.
WED.: 7 P.M. (WEATHER PERMITTING)
TRUE CHURCH OF GOD & CHRIST
301 N. JEFFERSON • ST. PASTOR: JEFF RILES
SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11:15 A.M.
WED.: 7 P.M.
THE GATHERING
623 W. FOURTH • PHYLLIS COCKERHAM
SUNDAY: 10 A.M. • WED.: 7 P.M.
HEDLEY
CHURCH OF CHRIST
110 E. SECOND ST. • MINISTER: STEWART MESSER
SUN. BIBLE CLASS: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M.
SUN. EVENING: 6 P.M. • WED.: 7:30 P.M.
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 N. MAIN ST. • PASTOR: STAN COSBY
SUN. SERVICE: 11:00 A.M.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
210 N. MAIN ST. • 856-5980 • PASTOR: BRUCE HOWARD
SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN.: 11 A.M. & 6 P.M.
WED.: 7 P.M.
HOWARDWICK
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
235 RICK HUSBAND BLVD. • 874-3326 • REV. JIM FOX
SUN. SCHOOL: 8:45 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 10:00 A.M.
SUN. EVENING: 5 P.M. • WED.: 6 P.M.
MARTIN
MARTIN BAPTIST CHURCH
US 287 W
SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M.
SUN. EVENING: 6 P.M. • WED.: 7 P.M.
BRICE
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Unprocessed red meat has no notable effect on obesity, diseases

A Texas Tech researchers’ rigorous analysis of available data challenges longstanding public health assumptions about the risks of consuming unprocessed beef.

Animal-sourced foods, such as red meat, are often assumed to be associated with obesity risk. However, Texas Tech University researchers conducted a comprehensive analysis of available research about the relationship between unprocessed red meat intake and obesity, finding no significant effect of such intake on weight gain or related metabolic issues. This opens a path for consumers to make informed decisions about the role of unprocessed beef in healthy lifestyles.

The study challenges widespread health narratives by using rigorous, controlled studies rather than relying on associations which cannot conclusively determine if red meat causes obesity.

Accurate information about the relationship of red meat with obesity or weight gain can help people decide whether or not to include or avoid red meat in their diets.

The researchers made their data analysis public, encouraging others to review and verify results. This can lead to further studies to refine and improve dietary recommendations grounded in high-quality evidence.

Obesity affects 40 percent of adults in the U.S. and elevates the risk of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure. Nutrition scientists and health professionals increasingly aim to understand how specific nutrients, foods and dietary patterns may contribute to obesity risk. Animal-sourced foods, such as red meat, are often called into question as part of this public health dialogue.

Texas Tech University researchers recently aimed to provide more understanding into whether red meat is linked with obesity risk and related

conditions. Their study, published in the prestigious journal “Obesity,” found no significant effect of unprocessed red meat consumption on weight gain, obesity or related metabolic conditions in adults – including body mass index (BMI), percent body fat, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol and triglycerides.

“Beef contains high-quality protein and other essential nutrients and people enjoy this key source of nourishment – yet they’re often discouraged to consume red meat based on recommendations primarily driven by observational evidence,” noted the lead researcher, Nikhil V. Dhurandhar, Helen Devitt Jones Endowed Chair, Paul W. Horn Distinguished Professor, chair of the Department of Nutritional Sciences and associate dean for innovation for the College of Health & Human Sciences. “Our study is the first to fully review the totality of causative evidence, which shows no protective or adverse effect of unprocessed red meat intake on obesity.

“As such, while unprocessed red meat consumption has declined in the U.S., the prevalence of obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease has skyrocketed – which makes a poor case for the role of beef in promoting the obesity epidemic.”

Dhurandhar explains the problem with previous related studies is they are based primarily on observational data, which often rely on self-reported dietary and lifestyle recall information that can be inaccurate and confound study results and conclusions.

Instead, the researchers used rigorous research methods by conducting a systematic review and meta-analysis of 19 human clinical trials, including parallel-arm randomized controlled trials and randomized crossover trials. They only focused on studies that determined the effect of direct feeding of unpro-

cessed red meat to participants rather than studies that used self-reported data.

These controlled interventions and methodological approaches reduced potential bias and directly assessed effects of specific dietary interventions on health outcomes, guided by the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) reporting guidelines. The result is the most comprehensive evaluation of red meat intake and obesity to date, according to Dhurandhar.

In addition, to promote transparency, the team has publicly shared codes, calculations and data utilized in the analysis through an interactive dashboard. Scientists are encouraged to access and review the data as they consider designing similar studies in the future.

The authors believe it’s important for scientists to build upon this research for improved public health recommendations.

“Protein-rich foods, such as beef, may improve satiety and fullness, which can help support lifestyle and dietary behaviors that promote weight loss and healthy weight maintenance,” Dhurandhar added. “However, the stigma surrounding unprocessed red meat’s role in obesity may keep many from consuming red meat, thus missing out on benefits such as satiety, which may be important for weight loss and management. This study offers a complete view of the research, so clinicians and consumers can make informed decisions about the role of unprocessed beef in healthy lifestyles.”

This research was funded by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA), a contractor to the Beef Checkoff and the Texas Beef Council (TBC). Neither NCBA nor TBC were involved in the study design, data collection and analysis or publication of the findings.

the lion’s tale by brian barboza

The Clarendon Lions Club held its regular Tuesday noon meeting July 15, 2025, with Boss Lion Brian Barboza in command.

We had ten Lions present and four attending virtually. Our guest was Bill Word, who presented our program.

Bill’s presentation was about the international travel associated with his career. Bill enjoyed learning about the different cultures, especially moving to London and learning how to drive on the left hand side of the road among many other things about British life. Another adjustment was the spelling of words and the different meaning of words, for example, a car hood is a bonnet, gasoline is called petrol and a cookie is a biscuit. Regional accents were another big adjustment.

A promotion caused him to leave London for South Africa, where his international experience intensified with the size and geographic and cultural diversity of South Africa. Travel in any direction meant you could experience a completely different environment at each location.

Bill next moved to Singapore where he found a nation more cosmopolitan than Dallas, and an extremely pro-business government. He found the island government to be very forward-thinking in terms of taking care of business and taking care of people.

Time kept Bill from telling us more about his career travels, but we hope to have him back soon to tell us more about the different places he has seen and lived.

There being no further business, we adjourned to spread Lionism and good cheer throughout our fair county.

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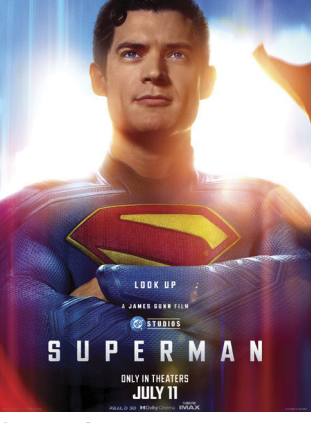
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p.m. Practice: Fourth Mondays,
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Estlack - Secretary, 2 B I, ASK 1



Clarendon Lions Club Regular
meeting each Tuesday at noon.
Brian Barboza, Boss Lion, Roger
Estlack, Secretary

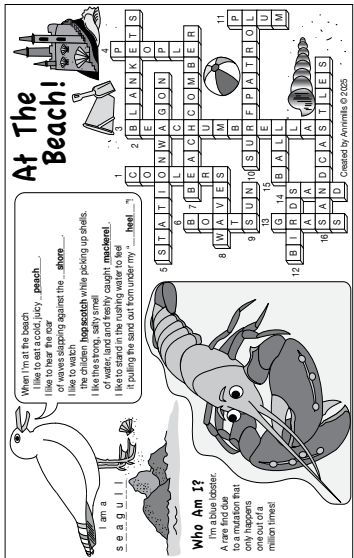
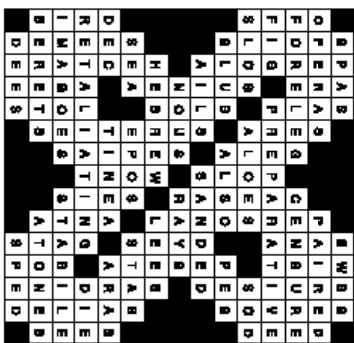


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I am a

_ e _ a _ u _ l

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:

- keep drinks cool and sandwiches safe from seagulls
- large cloths to lay on; cover the hot sand
- open and close, protect us from the sun's rays
- beachgoers, fans of the sand and surf
- car with lots of space for boogie boards and beach chairs
- sail, power and fishing; allow for travel on water
- someone who searches the sandy beaches for something valuable
- these crash against the beach; perfect for surfing
- hot, yellow orb in sky; use lotion to protect from being burned
- travel up and down the beach to protect; lifeguards, U.S. Coast Guard
- fruit growing along the northeastern coast; used in jams or jellies
- pelicans, sandpipers, gulls
- tough plant with long, thin, narrow leaves
- countless grains make up beach; gets into every nook and cranny
- light, brightly colored, inflated, round plastic toy
- buildings of sand and water; moat; seashell windows and doors

At The Beach!

When I'm at the beach

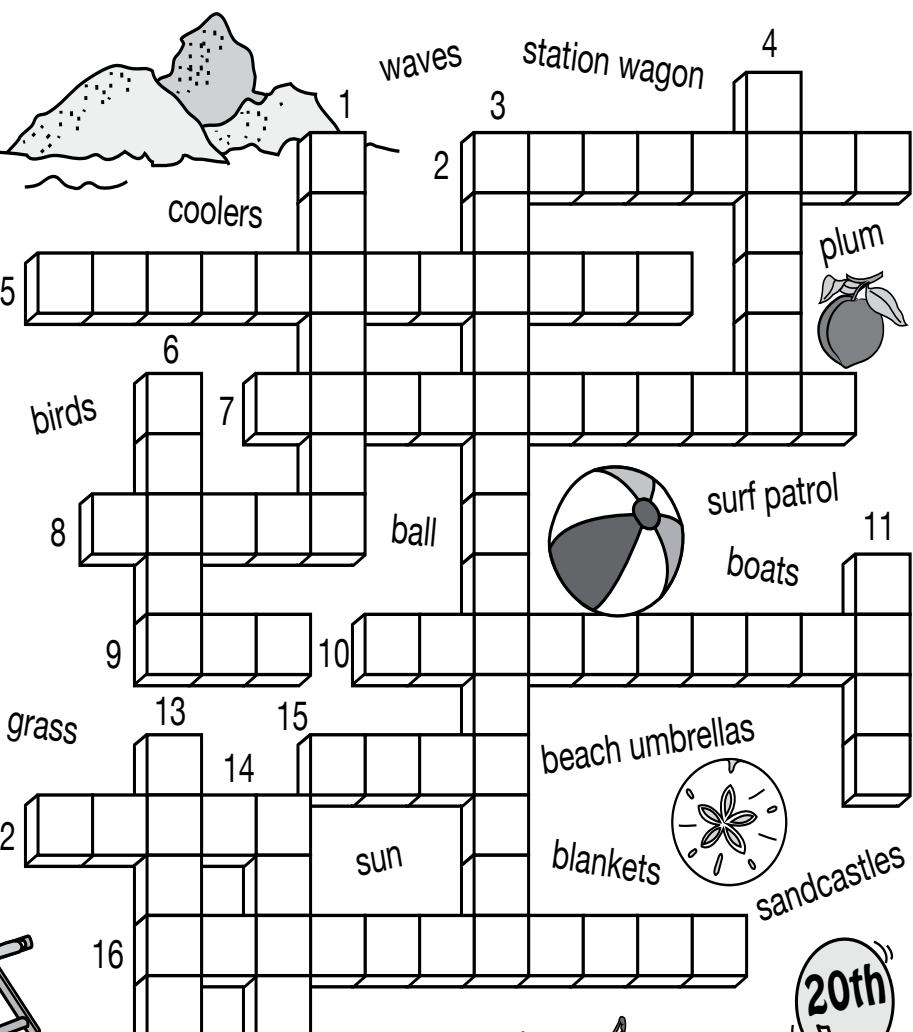
I like to eat a cold, juicy _____.

I like to hear the roar of waves slapping against the _____.

I like to watch the children _____ while picking up shells.

I like the strong, salty smell of water, land and freshly caught _____.

I like to stand in the rushing water to feel it pulling the sand out from under my "_____!"



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Print out this week's puzzle set to encourage kids to keep reading and visiting their library:

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Mental health programs could bear the brunt of cuts to Texas schools

By Stephen Simpson, The Texas Tribune

As Texas schools face at least \$600 million in federal funding cuts, multiple mental health programs, particularly those implemented in response to the pandemic and mass shootings, are at risk of losing funding.

School programs focused on chronic absenteeism, mental wellness and crisis services that were created in response to the Uvalde school shooting, as well as social workers and counselors, could all be on the chopping block.

Texas schools rely heavily on federal funding to support mental health programs. Data shows that two federal programs that are at risk of being cut or strictly regulated account for 86% of the school mental health funding for more than 2,500 campuses statewide, according to Mental Health America of Greater Houston.

Bracing also for the impending expiration of COVID-19 relief funding, school districts and advocacy groups this legislative session had pushed for more money through a dedicated funding source for school mental health, but lawmakers did not approve it.

Currently, such funding is combined with school safety in the so-called school safety allotment in the state school funding formula, and school districts tend to prioritize the allotment on school security.

“I don’t want to get into a situation where I am asking, do I hire a police officer or do I hire a counselor? I want them both,” said Adrian Johnson, superintendent for the Hearne school district.

The funding cuts and lack of progress on getting a statewide dedicated funding stream for mental health comes at a time when student mental health is worsening. The special legislative session starts July 21, but Gov. Greg Abbott has not assigned school mental health as a directive to lawmakers.

Created in response to Uvalde,

the federal Bipartisan Safer Communities Act helps fund two grant programs in Texas, the Texas Center for Student Supports and the Stronger Connections Grant Program. The former implements mental health training and support in 60 high-needs districts and the latter helps 98 public school districts with case management tools that identify struggling students, as well as mental health personnel.

Almost three years later, the Safer Communities Act is losing over \$1 billion spread across the country. Funds that were supposed to last until 2027 are expected to dry up by the end of this year.

The cut to the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is just one in a series of proposed changes to federal funding for public education that will impact how mental health is addressed in schools.

According to an analysis from the Learning Policy Institute, the freezing of five other federal programs that support public schools are expected to result in the withholding of approximately \$600 million from Texas, more than 16.1% of the state’s federal K-12 funding.

These funds have been used for a variety of services such as English language instruction and literacy, but also after school programs and summer programs focused on mental wellness.

Medicaid and CHIP are also facing cuts in the federal spending bill passed earlier this month, and both provide millions of dollars each year to school districts and local mental health authorities, enabling them to hire and retain mental health providers, offer preventive mental health screenings, and support students with disabilities using specialized services.

Separately, COVID-19 funds are set to expire this year or already ran out, forcing some smaller schools to lay off staff or find alternative ways to keep the social workers and counselors hired during the pandemic.

The confluence of these cuts come as Texas lawmakers missed opportunities to properly fund school mental health this year.

During the legislative session that ended in June, Texas lawmakers agreed on a robust school funding bill that adds \$8.5 billion to the state’s public school system. However, most of it has been earmarked for teacher pay; with roughly \$250 million being set aside for school support staff and mental health support staff are not necessarily included in the pay raise.

Over 70% of the schools reported that sustainable funding for school-based mental health staff and professional school counselors was the main barrier to having adequate resources to address student mental health needs, according to a survey of 2,690 schools by the Mental Health America of Greater Houston.

“We are hopeful that this will translate to more dollars for mental health. But without any legislation currently earmarking those dollars, that is not a guarantee,” Rebecca Fowler, the director of public policy and government affairs at Mental Health America of Greater Houston, said about the new school funding.

In 2023, 36 Texas health and wellness organizations wrote to the Texas Legislature, urging the creation and funding of a separate “student mental health allotment” because programs were not reaching enough students.

Only 13% of schools used the school safety allotment for mental health supports, according to the Mental Health America of Greater Houston report.

House Bill 1257 by Rep. John Bryant, D-Dallas, attempted to secure dedicated mental health funds, but it did not pass this year.

“Uncertainty around different funding streams makes it hard to navigate these conversations about the future of mental health and young people,” said Kate Murphy, director of child protection policy for Texans Care for Children.

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FCIC debunks scam warnings

You may have seen pictures or videos on social media posts of people peeling off tap-to-pay decals placed over tap-to-pay portals on gas pumps.

The posts claim the stickers, presumably placed by criminals, will steal your credit/debit card data.

Based on conversations with retail fuel industry partners, the Financial Crimes Intelligence Center (FCIC) says Texans should not be concerned.

“While we all need to stay vigilant as criminals become more savvy, there are no legitimate instances reported where ‘tap-to-pay stickers’ have been used to steal data,” said Jeff Roberts, FCIC Intelligence Operations Captain. “The decals

shown in social media posts appear to be standard industry stickers used to replace worn or hard to see tap-to-pay terminals. If you notice any stickers or devices that seem to interfere with tap-to-pay transactions, report them to the gas station immediately and avoid swiping your card for payment.”

With the continued surge of credit/debit card skimmers that allow criminals to gather data from the magnetic strip when a card is swiped, the tap-to-pay option at fuel pumps, especially when using a payment app, remains the safest method.

If you suspect tampering at a fuel pump, report it to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).

SUDOKU

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								1

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	6	9	2	5	7	9	4	3	8
8	8	9	3	8	7	4	9	2	7
4	7	4	3	9	2	8	1	5	6
6	2	5	7	9	1	8	4	3	
3	1	9	8	4	2	7	2	6	5
8	4	7	8	3	6	5	2	2	1
6	4	1	9	4	3	5	3	8	7
2	3	6	5	1	7	3	8	4	
2	1	3	7	9	4	8	5	6	

ANSWER:

MEMORIES PARK ★ JULY 19TH ★ 11 TO 4

LIVE ON SITE RAFFLE
LOCAL VENDORS
PUTTING CONTEST

2025 HOEDOWN

HOWARDWICK

BRING THE FAMILY AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

PULLED PORK SANDWICH
POTATO SALAD
DRINK
\$10.00



\$25.00 PER TICKET OR 5 TICKETS FOR \$100.00
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!
TICKETS ON SALE NOW
GET YOURS EARLY
AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL OR AT THE CLARENDON COUNTRY CLUB PROSHOP



WATER SLIDE AND BOUNCE HOUSE FOR THE KIDS!

LIVE ON-SITE RAFFLE
\$1.00 EACH OR 25 FOR \$20.00 MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN
WINNERS DRAWN HOURLY

HOEDOWN SHOWDOWN POKER RUN

SATURDAY - JULY 19TH - 9:00AM
GOLF CARTS - ATV'S - UTV'S
\$20.00 PER HAND - REGISTER AT CITY HALL NOW TILL JULY 18TH OR AT 8:30AM MORNING OF EVENT
LINE UP AT NORTH SIDE OF PAVILION
WINNER TAKES HOME 50% OFF ENTRY FEES OR CAN BE DONATED BACK TO CHVFD!
ALL CHECK POINTS WILL BE IN THE CITY OF HOWARDWICK







ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CITY OF HOWARDWICK VFD